**UNITED NATIONS** **ST**

**Secretariat**

ST/IC/1998/38
5 May 1998

INFORMATION CIRCULAR*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services

Subject: FIRST DAY OF ISSUE: INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE OCEAN STAMPS AND POSTAL STATIONERY

Commemorative stamps

1. In recognition of the importance of the ocean, the marine environment and its resources for life on earth and sustainable development, the United Nations has declared 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean. On Wednesday, 20 May 1998, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of three commemorative sheets of 12 stamps on the theme "International Year of the Ocean".

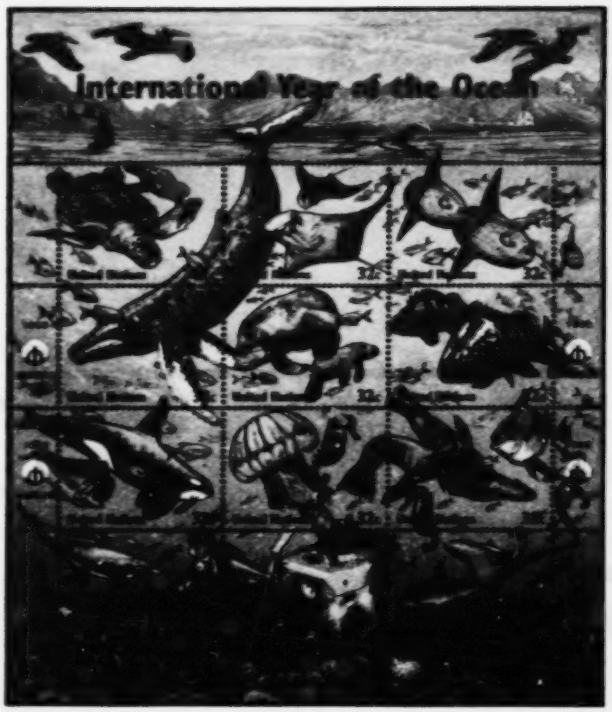
2. The stamps, issued in denominations of $0.32, 0.45 Swiss francs and 3.50 schillings, were designed by Larry Taugher (United States of America), Jon Ellis (United States of America) and Yuan Lee (China), respectively.

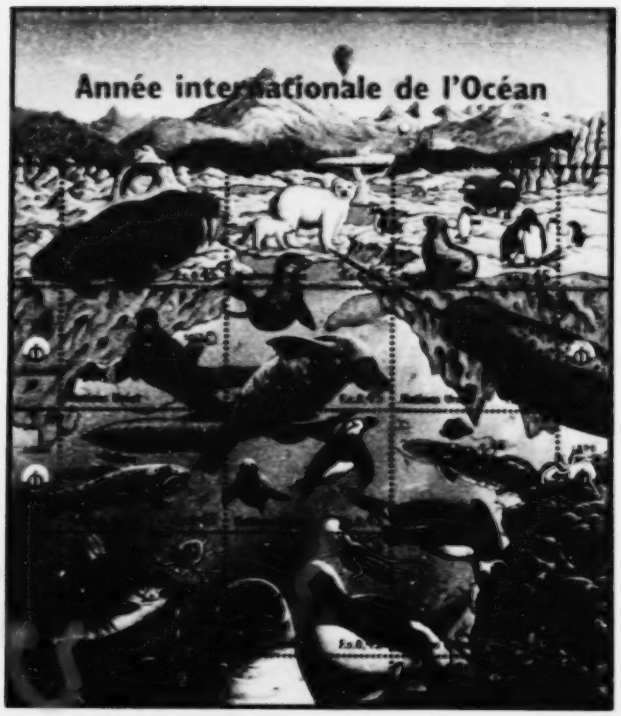
(United States equivalents - SwF 0.45: $0.56 and S 3.50: $0.28 - subject to exchange rate fluctuation)

First day covers

3. Due to the mini-sheet format, first day covers will be available only as a full sheet affixed to a jumbo envelope and cancelled either New York, Geneva or Vienna, as appropriate.

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 31 May 1998.


International Year of the Ocean


Année internationale de l'Océan

Internationales Jahr des Ozeans

Postal stationery

4. On 20 May 1998, UNPA will issue five new postal cards. The postal cards, in denominations of $0.21, $0.50, SwF 0.70, SwF 1.10 and S 6.50, will be issued to meet current postage rates.

(United States equivalents - SwF 0.70: $0.49; SwF 1.10: $0.77; and S 6.50: $0.53 - subject to exchange rate fluctuation)

5. The 21-cent postal card depicts five photographs by Unmesh (United Nations) of the grounds and gardens of United Nations Headquarters.

6. The 50-cent card has four photographs of the grounds and scenes of United Nations Headquarters taken by Unmesh (United Nations). The photograph appearing in the lower left-hand corner is by John Isaac (United Nations).

7. The SwF 0.70 postal card presents a photographic representation by Fabrice Piraud (France) of the newly renovated Assembly Hall at the United Nations Office at Geneva.

8. The SwF 1.10 postal card depicts a view of the Palais des Nations and the Armillary Sphere in Geneva.

9. The S 6.50 card depicts an angular portrayal by Günter Leidenfrost (Austria) of the Vienna International Centre against a radiantly blue sky. A sculpture entitled "Generation" by Edwina Sandys (United Kingdom), donated by the Vereinigte Metallwerke Ranshofen Berndorf AG, Austria, appears in the foreground.

General information

10. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day jumbo cachets only. Stationery cancelled first-day-of-issue will also be available. Members of delegations and the staff may obtain the new stamps and first-day items on Wednesday, 20 May, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.;

(b) The counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

11. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at the following temporary United States Postal Service substations:

(a) The counter outside the United Nations Bookstore in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.;

(b) The counter along the west wall of the north end of the Secretariat North Lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

12. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.

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